

VIII. WOLVERINE SUMMER HOME AREA

Wolverine Canyon, and the subsequent Sellers Creek Canyon, are the most popular summer home areas in the county, and pose the most difficult challenges. The area is mountainous and heavily wooded. There are a several perennial and intermittent creeks throughout. Vehicular traffic is limited to a winding and sometimes steep roadway passing through the canyons from east to west for a distance of approximately 20 miles.

There are many side roads leading off the main road, but all lead to dead ends limiting escape routes to the main road. An unknown number of homes have been constructed along this corridor. Our estimate is approximately 40, with a large number being constructed or having been permitted. A subdivision has been started with 48 lots and another has been proposed.

Nearly all homes have been concealed in thick timber and have driveway security making entry very difficult. During drought years, such as the last three, these mountains become exceedingly dry and volatile. Fires starting in these hills will be extremely difficult to access and to extinguish. Thick underbrush and downed timber contribute to very dangerous fire conditions.

The Wolverine Summer Home Area would be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. This area presents the most urgent need for a fire-wise education program. It will also be the most difficult to administer. Because of no-trespassing measures and hidden homes, delivery of materials will be a challenge. However, this will likely be the most effective course of action.
2. A thorough mapping program will need to be conducted. Every home should be located and, by some means, identified for access by emergency vehicles. At present, homes, or cabins, exist that are basically unknown and were not permitted.
3. Egress and access routes must be studied to determine if alternate routes of escape can be developed. It is not feasible at this time to create another main route because of the mountainous terrain. However, subdivisions, and clusters of homes, can and should develop alternate routes.
4. This is an area that definitely should adopt building codes requiring fire-resistant materials. A panel could be convened to determine what types of construction can be permitted in the future.
5. A communications network could be developed that could alert homeowners to a fire outbreak.
6. The Shelley/Firth Fire District responds to fires in this area. The addition of a 6-wheel drive pumper truck to their existing equipment is necessary to help them to respond to fires in this area. Because residency in the area is sporadic, the creation of a fire brigade is not feasible.